

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REGARDING MILITARY INTERVENTION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, about a century and a half ago, a little longer than that, the House of Representatives passed a rule banning, prohibiting the discussion of slavery in the U.S. House of Representatives. In those days John Quincy Adams, former President, was a Member of the House of Representatives and while he was banned, was prohibited from discussing slavery, former President Adams, Congressman Adams as an abolitionist believed that slavery was the biggest blot on our Nation's history and wanted to remove that. He came to the House floor day after day, week after week, and because he could not talk directly about slavery, he read letters from his constituents in Massachusetts expressing their concern about slavery.

Along those lines, this Congress today, my friends in the majority, will not allow us to debate the issue of the President's perhaps not telling the whole truth about his decision to attack Iraq. We have gotten literally hundreds of thousands of signatures in this body, petitions stating that Congress should support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program.

I would like to share some of those literally thousands of letters from my State that have come with those petitions asking this Congress to investigate.

From Delaware, Ohio:

"I opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning, convinced there were other ways to working towards regime change, and I'm convinced that Saddam Hussein had more dangerous weapons secreted away than did many other national dictators. Now it seems possible the American public was duped by the Bush administration."

From Dayton, Ohio:

"I am concerned that the public was not fully informed about the intelligence used to urge us to support going to war in Iraq. I'm particularly distressed that we didn't try harder to get United Nations support and that occupation plans were poorly formulated. If we had full intelligence about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, we might have been able to make a more reasoned decision."

I am hearing letter after letter now coming into my office, people concerned, people especially upset as the

President announced this week that we are going to spend \$60 to \$70 billion in Iraq, we are now spending \$1 billion a week of U.S. taxpayer dollars, dollars we are not spending to reconstruct America's schools, dollars we are not spending on highways, in mass transit and infrastructure, dollars we are not spending on prescription drug benefits, dollars we are not spending to give tax breaks to the middle class. We are spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq.

But to make that even worse, my constituents tell me, and I hear people especially upset, is one-third of those dollars, those billion dollars a week, are going to private contractors, companies like Halliburton, happens to be a company on which Vice President CHENEY is still on the payroll. Halliburton still pays Vice President CHENEY \$15,000 a month. They are getting billions of dollars in unbid contracts of our tax dollars as President Bush and our country continue the occupation of Iraq. A billion dollars a week we are spending in Iraq, a third of that goes to unbid contracts, mostly to the President's friends. Is it any surprise the President can raise \$200 million in his campaign when he is giving unbid contracts to his friends of literally hundreds of millions of dollars every single week?

Another letter comes from a gentleman in Ohio also who writes:

"It's very important that this administration be held to the same standards of scrutiny and accountability as any other. This investigation is a congressional obligation, not simply a discretionary option. I urge you to support the vote for establishing a commission."

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Another letter from Ohio: "Please co-sponsor H.R. 260 and open up the hearings to the public. If the hearings are closed, it will send a loud message that Congress doesn't care about the truth that our Representatives want to hide foreign policy from the whole world, including the American citizens."

Another letter: "As a Vietnam veteran, I demand an investigation. Our children should not be expendable for political or financial gain."

These letters, as I said, continue to show concern and in some cases outrage that we are spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq with \$300 million of that going to unbid contracts to private contractors, many of whom are major contributors to the President.

From Kent, Ohio: "I am appalled by the continuing arrogance of the administration and its deceptive practices. Please call a commission to make them accountable for the killing of Americans in Iraq that I fear has only begun."

Mr. Speaker, it goes on and on and on, from thousands of concerned citizens, literally hundreds of thousands, across the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADMINISTRATION STACKING DECK AGAINST AMERICAN STEELWORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of hundreds of thousands of steelworkers, not only in the great State of Ohio, but across this country, many from my district. These times for the steelworkers have been made even worse by an administration that has really stacked the deck against them. We have suffered the worst job loss record since the Great Depression. Nine million Americans are unable to find a job, 3 million have lost their jobs since President Bush has taken office, and 195,000 of those live in the great State of Ohio.

In particular, the steelworkers, many men and women across the industrial Midwest who have given their lives, in many instances their limbs, to feed their families and make sure their kids can have a better life than they had. Twenty-six steel companies have gone bankrupt.

I found it very interesting the other day that the President of the United States made his way into Ohio in an election year to talk about manufacturing, and he made his way through the gated communities of the State of Ohio. As his motorcade rode through, he landed in Richfield, Ohio, one of the wealthiest suburbs in the State, to talk about the decline in manufacturing. He did not go to Youngstown, he did not go to Cleveland, he did not go to Toledo, he did not go to Mansfield. He went to the suburbs.

It is time we have a manufacturing policy in this country again. We sign trade agreements that continue to send our jobs, once to Mexico, and now they are leaving Mexico and they are going to China.

One quick story. Before the break, at the end of July, we passed two trade agreements, two new ones, two new NAFTAs, one with Chile, one with Singapore. We want to export more. No labor standards, no environmental standards.

We had many Members of this Chamber come before us and indicate how great these free trade agreements are, how they were going to make America stronger, that we have free trade, we have this free exchange of goods, it is great for everybody, it lowers the price for the consumers.

Later that night, early into the next morning, we tried to pass a drug re-importation bill. We basically wanted to free-trade pharmaceuticals to drive